

Hello

In researching my family's Fyvie origins (Duncan,Cruikshank,Simpson)
I stumbled across your website.

In 1952 Balmedie was a one teacher school. My granny was the dominie's housekeeper. My sister and I were billeted on a croft near Balmedie. We visited the school one day and as a ten year old I was interested to see the wide range of ages among the pupils. A good sized class of five year olds to fifteen year old boys and girls.

Forty years on, while photographing tombstones (a strange pastime I know but one I still enjoy) in London's Highgate Cemetery I talked to an old man feeding grey squirrels. He had retired to London after spending most of his working life in South Africa and commented upon my strong Scots accent after I admitted to spending most of my adult life in Australia. He was he admitted a Scot, although he had lost the Doric in spite of having been born and raised in a wee place near Aberdeen called Balmedie. I shared my childhood holiday story with him. By comparing dates we discovered he had probably been in that classroom and that the teacher's name was Grant.

I've lost the name of the croft. The daughter of the house was disabled; however she had a knitting machine and knitted marvellous sweaters and cardigans.

But the most memorable part of Balmedie for me was the beach.

Regards

Drew Grozier